

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
for March 15, 2005**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at the Town Hall.

Town Council President Benjamin Bolton called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with Councilpersons John Wilhelm and Louise Roberts and Town Attorney Dan Whitten in attendance. Terry Hiestand substituted for the Clerk-Treasurer Anne Hiestand who was ill.

Council President Benjamin Bolton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Two special presentations were made.

**FRIENDS OF GARY AIRPORT:** Dan Kernagis, member of the Friends of the Gary/Chicago Airport, explained that he speaks to community groups to explain the importance of supporting the development of the Gary/Chicago airport to the development of all Northwest Indiana. He explained that Northwest Indiana needs to work together to promote the use and development of the Gary/Chicago Airport as Chicago's third airport and reviewed the importance of the enhanced airport as an economic development engine.

The runways are already longer than those at Midway. The airport is ideally located to provide access to the Chicago Loop, the Indiana Dunes, steel companies, universities and casinos. Intermodal transportation opportunities via rail and highways continue to be improved. Mr. Kernagis did not foresee there would be any noise pollution impact on Dune Acres or other nearby communities. Daily flights are currently available to Myrtle Beach, Columbus, OH, Nassau in the Bahamas and additional connections are being developed. Council thanked Mr. Kernagis for his presentation and the efforts of the Friends of the Gary/Chicago Airport in supporting airport development.

**HISTORICAL LANDMARKS FOUNDATION OF INDIANA:** Todd Zeiger, Director of the Northern Regional Office of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana in South Bend, Indiana appeared to speak about how his 501 (c) (3) charitable organization could support the efforts to maintain the historic Dune Acres Clubhouse. After describing his organization, which includes 11,000 members and 50 full-time staff people, Mr. Zeiger stated that his group could finance preliminary studies and would pay up to \$2000 if those funds were matched. He provided a list of resources that could be contacted to assist in planning a log restoration project. Mr. Zeiger particularly spoke highly of the Leatherwood Organization in Tennessee.

Mr. Zeiger advised that as far as he's concerned there would be no downside to listing the building on the Historic Landmarks Register which is often a benefit in finding funding sources. There is no restriction on what can be done after registration. He suggested that the registration quest might include the other log houses in the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilperson John Wilhelm made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2005 meeting as presented. Councilperson Louise Roberts seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR the TOWN OF DUNE ACRES as of February 28, 2005:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| City Savings CD                                   | \$5,227.15          |
| Bank One Checking Account                         | \$40,001.51         |
| Bank One Money Market Account                     | \$139,384.95        |
| DA Checking Account at First State Bank of Porter | <u>\$292,906.17</u> |
| TOTAL cash on hand                                | \$477,519.78        |

Councilperson John Wilhelm made a motion to accept the Financial Report as submitted, which motion was seconded by Councilperson Louise Roberts and unanimously carried.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS: Councilperson Louise Roberts moved to accept the claims as presented which motion was seconded by Councilperson John Wilhelm and unanimously carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED FOR THE TOWN OF DUNE ACRES for MARCH 2005:

|                              |                               |            |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Andrew W. Belsha             | February Payroll              | \$543.56   |
| Atha W. Belsha               | February Payroll              | \$1,208.88 |
| Anne Hiestand                | February Payroll              | \$378.50   |
| David W. Kristophel          | February Payroll              | \$576.20   |
| Philip A. Lepley             | February Payroll              | \$1,085.96 |
| Nick Markovich               | February Payroll              | \$830.04   |
| Terry R. Trout               | February Payroll              | \$519.02   |
| Garrett L. Tyrrell           | February Payroll              | \$830.04   |
| Bank One                     | Payroll Liability Check       | \$1,660.82 |
| Indiana Dept. of Revenue     | Payroll Liability Check       | \$274.62   |
| Sue Smith                    | Speaker reimbursement         | \$100.00   |
| Chesterton Tribune           | Annual Report Legal Notice    | \$108.09   |
| Able Disposal                | Monthly garbage service       | \$26.52    |
| NIPSCO                       | Gas & electric                | \$945.43   |
| Howard Silverman             | Website hosting & domain name | \$84.27    |
| Datagraphics                 | Program announcements         | \$15.80    |
| Indiana American Water Co.   | Gatehouse water 2 months      | \$35.32    |
| Atty. Dan Whitten            | 1st quarter 2005 retainer     | \$1,250.00 |
| Anton Insurance              | Work. Comp., Gen. Liability   | \$3,044.00 |
| Nextel                       | Monthly Service               | \$70.76    |
| Verizon North                | Monthly phone                 | \$135.19   |
| Pinkerton Fuels & Lubricants | Monthly gasoline for vehicles | \$170.02   |

|                      |                                    |             |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Bank One Credit Card | Security Camera supplies & Pliers  | \$380.50    |
| Louise Roberts       | License plates new truck           | \$15.00     |
| Boyce Forms          | Checks & Receipts for new software | \$499.85    |
| Ferrellgas           | Bottled gas for gatehouse          | \$97.86     |
| Sa-So Full Line      | Dog Tags                           | \$58.54     |
| Hopkins Ace Hardware | Various see voucher page           | \$192.23    |
| LaCorte Heating & AC | Rerouted conduit & wire to sensors | \$110.75    |
| Jon's Tree Service   | Snowplowing services               | \$5,280.00  |
|                      |                                    | \$20,527.77 |

## COMMISSION REPORTS:

**POLICE:** Commissioner Cecilia Call reported that she had employed a company to clean the Gatehouse once a month starting with the current week. She is estimating the cost will be \$20 per month. She advised that she thinks the Town needs to consider a replacement for the Jimmy security vehicle because the transmission is suspect, there are possible gas leaks and it needs a tuneup. Council President Benjamin Bolton stated that the Town may have to make do and buy a replacement vehicle next year.

Commissioner Call reported that she is continuing to have complaints about barking dogs, which was affirmed by Town resident Nancy Peterson, 1 Summit Drive, who was in attendance at the meeting. Mrs. Peterson's neighbors at 65 West Road now are keeping two barking dogs outdoors all the time and her neighbors across the street at 70 West Road appear to have three dogs left outside. The Councilpersons agreed that the Town should write a letter to the affected property owners seeking their cooperation in dealing with the problem and that in the event that the property owners didn't respond, the Town Attorney should follow up with a letter citing the violations of the Nuisance Ordinance.

It was determined that the manager of the Town's security force would be referred to as the "Police Commissioner," not the "Security Commissioner."

**MUNICIPAL CODE:** The Town is still sending information to be reviewed and compiled into a new Town code.

**ROADS:** Road Commissioner Irv Call reported that the materials used for the streets during the winter have been more expensive but more satisfactory. There has been one visitation by a contractor interested in bidding on this year's repaving projects. Projects include West Road from the Putnam residence to Hill Drive and projects on Circle and Ridge. Terry Hiestand mentioned the need for work on Clubhouse Drive and Commissioner Call advised that was in next year's schedule. Town Council President Benjamin Bolton suggested that work on Circle be deferred until the completion of the planned water project in that area.

**MAINTENANCE:** Maintenance Commissioner Bill Griffin was present but had nothing to report.

ENVIRONMENT: Commissioner Susan Smith reported that the presentation by Mr. Connor Shaw of Possibility Place on Saturday, March 12, was well received and he provided a lot of interesting planting ideas. The next event for the Environmental Committee will be the Town cleanup on April 30. Two dumpsters will be provided; one for unbagged leaves and the other for unwanted household items (not household garbage). A representative of the Environmental Committee will be at the Town Hall 8 a.m. to Noon on April 30 and will provide bags for cleaning up the Town's public spaces. Volunteers are asked to bring work gloves and rakes. There will be a garlic mustard pull from 10 a.m. to noon that morning which will be mostly around the Town Hall and the playground area. Sandy O'Brien has already started to spray the garlic mustard around the Town Hall so that the herbicide will be in place to do its work when the weather warms up. Greg Livovich is getting certified for chemical spray and will be helping Sandy as a Town employee. Girls Scouts have been invited to come out again in May to help pull garlic mustard.

Mrs. Smith suggested that the Town acquire the four rolls of coconut blanket material left over from the restoration project at the Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary to be applied to hold the sand on the Clubhouse hill where the water main broke. The Council agreed that it would pay \$132 for the rolls, each of which is 6.7 feet wide and 108 feet long and buy the necessary pins to install them. The material will be left in place since it's biodegradable. Mrs. Smith is still waiting for word on the grant for bittersweet eradication filed by Noel Pavlovic. The Environmental Committee hopes to be starting a "Kids" environmental program as early as May.

Skeff's of Chesterton is coming out to give an estimate for the removal of the bigger debris items at the intersection of Pine Lane and East Road. If the larger items can be removed, they can start herbiciding the bittersweet and perhaps be able to plant jack pines in the area in the fall.

The Environmental Committee is working on developing a planting plan for the area near the Security Office and have sent a photograph to Connor Shaw for his recommendation for plantings which the Committee hopes to do in August. Hopefully, the Town truck will be available to pick up the items and save delivery charges.

Mrs. Smith reported that the boxes collected by Town residents and shipped to soldiers with her son, Captain Jeff Smith, in Iraq have been well received and the Committee collecting the boxes will be posting a list of items which are in short supply in a news release and on their website. The items that are well-received include toilet paper, peanut butter (small jars), tuna (in blue tin foil flat packets are best), ramen noodles, sports magazines, decks of playing cards and disposable cameras. The children in Iraq use crayons, pins, balls, stickers and other kid-friendly items. Aerosol spray items, bug sprays and shaving items are not shipped.

PARK: No report.

BEACH: No report.

FIRE: No report.

BUILDING: No report.

TOWN ENGINEER: Town Engineer Irv Call reported that a security camera has been replaced and one has received a new lens and filter but will need to be replaced in the future.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

VEHICLE STICKERS: Councilperson Louise Roberts reported that a minimum order of 500 vehicle stickers would cost between \$355 and \$408 depending on the number of colors used. Councilperson John Wilhelm said he favored a larger sticker on the order of 3" x 5" and Councilperson Louise Roberts said the estimates were for 2-3/4" x 4-3/4" stickers. The consensus was that the stickers should be for two years that the Councilpersons agreed that they would send any ideas they had as to the form to Councilperson Roberts so that an ordinance could be considered at the April meeting. Terry Hiestand asked as to the purpose of the stickers and Councilperson John Wilhelm said that the stickers were for the regulation of beach parking, to provide easy identification for the Town's security officers and were a revenue for the Town. Town resident Nancy Wilhelm of 24 Crest Drive suggested that if the stickers would glow under a black light, one could be installed to make the stickers more readily visible to security officers.

WATER PROJECTS: Town Council President Benjamin Bolton advised that he would be meeting with Indiana American Water Co. on Friday, March 18, to review the water main project on Oak Drive and determine what still needed to be cleaned up or repaired.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE: Councilperson Louise Roberts read proposed Resolution 2005-02 requesting the State Board of Accounts Approval of the Town's accounting forms. Councilperson John Wilhelm moved the adoption of Resolution 2005-02 which motion was seconded by Councilperson Louise Roberts and unanimously carried.

#### RESOLUTION 2005-02

##### REQUESTING STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS' APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING FORMS

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Dune Acres finds that it is beneficial to utilize the financial software systems from a single vendor and,

WHEREAS, Keystone Consulting Services, Inc. has provided financial software systems and updates to Indiana municipalities which contain procedures and produce forms that are required by the Indiana State Board of Accounts and Department of Local Government Finance:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Dune Acres adopts Keystone Consulting Services, Inc. financial software systems and requests that the Indiana State Board of Accounts approve all forms which have been previously submitted by the City of Seymour, April 2000 and any update and revisions provided in the future for use by the Town of Dune Acres.

APPROVED by the Town Council of Town of Dune Acres, Porter County, Indiana.

THIS 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2005.

**FIREWORKS DISPLAY:** Council President Benjamin Bolton reported that the fireworks display has been contracted for July 2, 2005 and the Town's celebration was being coordinated for that date.

**ECOLI TESTING:** Council President Benjamin Bolton reported that the Town had applied for a grant for daily sampling of the water for ecoli at the East Road and Ridge beaches for the 2005 summer season. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will test one time each week. To deal with the problem of the timeliness of posting results, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will be conducting an education program to help alert visitors to recognize dangerous conditions.

**PLAN COMMISSION:**

There was no Plan Commission business but the Council reported the appointment of resident Jeff Swoger to a vacant position on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Council President Benjamin Bolton entertained a motion from Council Person Louise Roberts to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

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Benjamin Bolton, Town Council President

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John Wilhelm, Town Council Member

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Louise Roberts, Town Council Member

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Terry Hiestand for  
Anne Hiestand, Clerk-Treasurer